

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 5819

ARA FOR LISTER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS VISITS

REF: STATE 290421 AND STATE 294206

1. THE EVENTS OF THE LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE CREATED SO HEATED AN ATMOSPHERE HERE THAT ANY VISITING PERSON OR GROUP TIED TO HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD FIND IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CONDUCT A SERIOUS DIALOGUE. THE HARD-LINERS WITHIN AND AROUND THE GOU HAVE FED UPON THE GENERAL PARANOIA THROUGH DISTORTED PRESS ATTACKS ON THE USG, THUS MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GOU TO RECEIVE ANY HUMAN RIGHTS VISITORS WITH OBJECTIVITY. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS HAS ALREADY ASSOCIATED THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE VISIT OF DR. ANFINSEN AS PART OF A USG ORCHESTRATED ATTACK FOLLOWING ON THE HEELS OF THE GENERAL MCAULIFFE AND GOLDMAN-GROUP VISITS.

2. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WE NEED TO GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD ON THESE VISITS -- MOST IMPORTANTLY THAT OF STEPHANSKY/ HELFELD -- TO ENSURE THAT THEY BECOME EFFECTIVE MISSIONS AND ARE NOT INUNDATED IN THE CURRENT WAVE OF DEFENSIVE OVERREACTION HERE. IN A SEPARATE CABLE I WILL OUTLINE MY
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THINKING ON THE STEPHANSKY MISSION.

3. ON THE NAS VISIT, I HOPE TO HAVE SOME FURTHER WORD AFTER THE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND ON WHETHER OR NOT THE ARMY COMMAND AGREES TO THE TIMING AND THE SCHEDULE PROPOSED BY DR. ANFINSEN. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ASKED US TO COORDINATE WITH THE ARMY COMMAND, WHICH WILL ACT AS

THE ACTION OFFICE FOR THE VISIT. THIS IS NOT A COMFORTING DEVELOPMENT, INASMUCH AS THEIR TRACK RECORD FOR COORDINATION IN THE PAST HAS NOT BEEN GOOD. I THINK YOU SHOULD INFORM NAS THAT WE WILL BE REPORTING TO THEM SOON AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE DATES SUGGESTED ARE FEASIBLE. THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT JANUARY IS A VACATION MONTH HERE WHICH MOST LIKELY WILL INFLUENCE GOU THINKING.

4. AS TO THE ABA TEAM VISIT, I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH FONMIN ROVIRA WHO INDICATED THAT THE GOU WOULD WELCOME THE VISIT, BUT HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY DELAY UNTIL LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT AND COURT SYSTEM IS VIRTUALLY ON VACATION FOR ALL THE MONTH OF JANUARY AND MOST OF FEBRUARY. NO ONE OF IMPORTANCE TO THE ABA WOULD BE AVAILABLE BEFORE LATE FEBRUARY.

5. IN MY DISCUSSION WITH ROVIRA I NOTED HOW PRESTIGIOUS AN ORGANIZATION THE ABA IS AND HOW JUDICIOUS THEY WERE IN SELECTING A COMMISSION TO VISIT HERE RATHER THAN APPROVING A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING URUGUAY AT THEIR RECENT CONVENTION. TO BUILD ON THIS IMAGE YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE ABA AND SUGGEST THAT:

A) THEY SEND A FORMAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT MENDEZ AS A FELLOW ATTORNEY (WHICH COULD BE PRESENTED TO AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS OR DELIVERD BY THIS EMBASSY) WHICH DETAILS THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT AND IS VERY SPECIFIC AS TO WHAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY ARE INTERESTED IN DOING WHILE IN THE COUNTRY, AND PROVIDES BIOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF THE VISITING REPRESENTATIVES;

B) THEY CONSIDER INCLUDING ONLY REPEAT ONLY US ABA MEMBERS ON THEIR TEAM. (COMMENT: THE FACT THAT LUIS REQUE WAS A FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE IAHRC IS ENOUGH TO PREJUDICE THE GROUP'S ACCEPTABILITY HERE, GUARANTEE A HOSTILE RECEPTION AND DRAG THE CONTENTIOUS IAHRC INTO THE VISIT, IF IT OCCURS.)

C) THEY OFFER THE GOU ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR THEIR VISIT IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH.
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